

Dear Mr Shift Hunter:-

Comparatively few collectors know a double transfer or a broken relief when they see one. With a little assistance many more will find both added pleasure and profit in his hobby. The collecting of plate varieties seems to have been a privilege of the specialist. In order to make this phase of philately available to all, we have started to prepare a series of illustrations dealing with the fundamentals of Plate Varieties. A bit of Missionary work will be of advantage to all. Local Clubs may use these rotaprints as the basis for educational programs. Dealers may cultivate their clientele by keeping one on display. Extra copies may be had for 12¢ each or ten for \$1.00.

It is quite gratifying to note the large number of letters received saying that S.H. Letter No.20 was missing and asking for a second copy. This shows the intense interest in plate varieties. Letter No.20 (B.I.A. Report No.3) was held for release at the same time as the Bureau Specialist for November. This accounts for the delay.

We have no intention of discontinuing the S.H. Letters nor the B.I.A. reports. The two interests are served equally well by the same reports and the combined support of both is needed to meet the expense. We are still in the red side of the ledger but we are confident that both groups will expand sufficiently to balance the books before the year 1931 is over. The total number to date is 69.

The only handicap that we have is the enormous amount of new data that has been received and the lack of time and cash to get it all into the reports. Whenever you pass thru Akron, be sure and spend an evening at 319 Vaniman Street. You will be cordially received and have the pleasure of seeing the actual stamps which is much better than even the best of illustrations.

Shift Hunter Letters 1 to 17 will not be reprinted again. Most of these letters are still available at 2 for 25¢. No.9 for 50¢. The shift illustrations are in two colors as on this sheet. No. 17 is 15¢ and has a Rotaprint illustration.

On the 2¢-Panama-Pacific, No.398, there is a series of small cracks at the lower right corner. They are visible to the unaided eye and are quite attractive. The heaviest crack starts at the lower right corner which seems to indicate that the cracks were the result of strains set up in the plate during transferring by the pressure of the Transfer Roll.

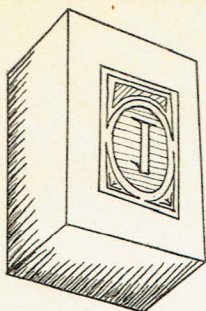
Please look over your blocks and sheets and see if you can find any data on the plate or position of this crack.

PLATE CRACKS.
2¢-Panama-Pacific
Position unknown.

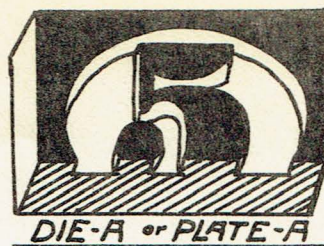
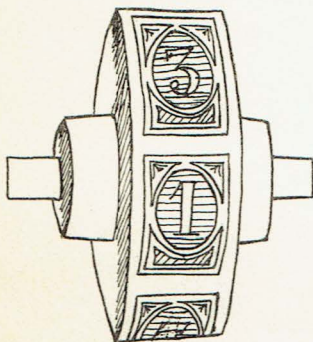
Several of the Shift Hunters are making an index of these reports. If someone will prepare one up to Jan.1st,1931 we will be glad to sent copies to all the Hunters.

Further EDUCATIONAL ILLUSTRATIONS will be prepared if this Rotaprint meets with your approval. Copies of this print will be sent to all B.I.A. members thru the courtesy of Mr.M.W.Grey of Charlotte, N.C. Perhaps there are other public spirited man who will help finance other educational reports. Thanks, Mr.Grey.

Cordially yours, C.W.Bedford.



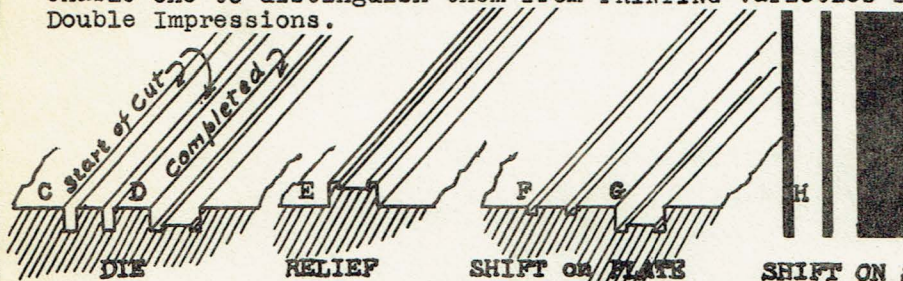
DIE (above) and
 TRANSFER ROLL (below)
 by courtesy of the
 Scott Stamp & Coin Co.



WHITE FACE LETTER. Die A is produced by hand engraving. Relief A is then produced on the Transfer Roll by rocking the roll onto the die. Plate A is produced by rocking the roll onto the plate. Ink is rubbed into the depressions in the plate, the plate surface is cleaned and polished. Damp paper is then applied to the plate under pressure. Ink from the depressions adheres to the paper, producing the final WHITE LETTER print (A).



BLACK or COLORED FACE LETTER. To produce the Black Face letter (B) the same mechanical processes are used. Note, however, the difference in the engraving. Compare the two reliefs and the two plates carefully. A clear concept of these details is necessary for understanding such plate varieties as SHIFTS or DOUBLE TRANSFERS, BROKEN RELIEFS and to enable one to distinguish them from PRINTING varieties such as Slip Impressions or Double Impressions.



A Shift of a HEAVY COLORED LINE often shows as MULTIPLE PARALLEL LINES. HERE'S WHY?

For printing the heavy colored line (I) the die cut (D) is apparently started by thin cuts as at (C) at either edge of the heavy line. Later cuts remove the metal

from the center of the line (D). Often the first two cuts at the edges of the heavy line are DEEPER than the center cuts. The unevenness at the BOTTOM of the line in the die, is reproduced on the TOP of the raised portion of the relief (E). If the relief is now PARTIALLY rocked into the plate, multiple parallel lines will be formed as at (F) which will print as at (H). If the roll is then shifted and completely rocked-in at (G), it will print the full line as at (I). On the stamp the two lines (H) may therefore be a DOUBLE TRANSFER of the heavy line (I). Such SHIFTS are often mistaken for TRIPLE TRANSFERS.

BROKEN RELIEFS.

The enormous pressure on the raised portion of the Transfer Roll (the relief) during the rocking-in on the plate, often causes breaks in the relief.

Thereafter, every position rocked-in with this broken relief, will show the break. The illustrations above show how the "CAPS" on the 2¢-1890 were formed. The illustrations below show the cause of the "BROKEN CIRCLE" on the 5¢-Wallon, also the broken lines at the lower right of the 2¢-Columbian.

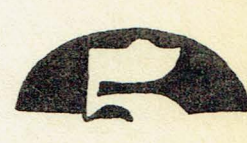
Here is a problem for the amateur:- Consider the break in the above colorless numeral. How would this type of break appear in the relief, the plate and in the stamp of the colored numeral below?



"BREAK IN RELIEF"



BREAK TRANSFERRED TO PLATE.



THE PRINT. "CAP" ON LETTER

